

### REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. These claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Buettner (U.S. patent no. 4,831,655) in view of Olsen (European patent publication EP 0 988 776).

5           After receiving the Final Office Action, the Applicant's representative contacted the Examiner for a telephone interview, sending in advance informal discussion points and proposing an amendment. The Examiner telephoned the Applicant's representative and indicated that if the contents of the informal discussion points, including the amendment, was submitted formally in an  
10 amendment after final, that the application should be allowable.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his consideration of the proposed claim amendments and arguments, and for his indication of allowability of same. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, and provides the following discussion for distinguishing amended claim 1 from  
15 the art cited against it.

Olsen fails to teach or suggest the stabilization element as clasping the border area of the housing. Webster's Dictionary defines "clasp", in relevant areas, as follows.

clasp  
20 transitive verb

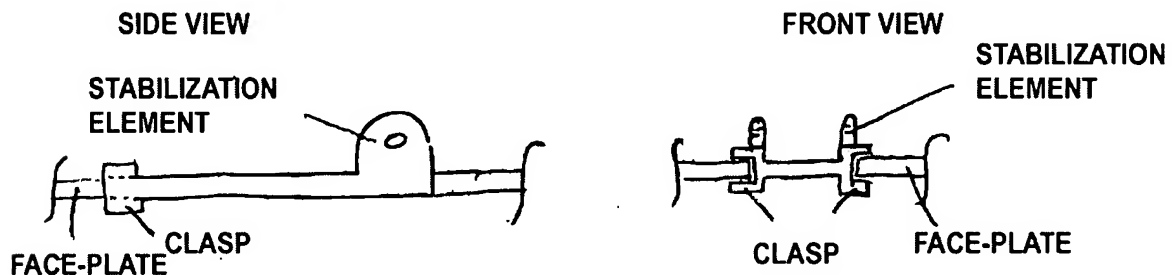
1 a : to fasten or shut together with or as if with a clasp \*a robe clasped with a brooch\* b : to furnish with a clasp \*a clasped binding of a book\*

2 : to surround and hold : hold (as a large object) against the body \*clasping a bulging briefcase\* : entwine about : cling to \*clasping ivy\*

...

6 : to engage in a clasp : WRAP — used with around, round, or over \*clapsed his enormous fingers tight around the chair arm— Kenneth Roberts\*

- 5           The following clarifying diagram illustrates an embodiment of the “clasp” as defined by the claim language.



The protruding resilient lug 19 of Olsen does not provide any sort of clasp function—as noted in Olsen [0019], the lugs simply engage grooves 12, 13 in the recess 8, but do not perform any sort of clasp function with respect to the face plate.

The clasp according to amended claim 1 forces a transfer between the opposite regions of the housing opening (and with this, a stabilization in this region). Olsen’s construction, as illustrated in Figure 2, does not permit this, because it is apparent that no enclosure of the border region occurs. A pressure exerted on one side of the border region in the design according to Olsen, for example upon opening or closing of the battery bay, therefore leads to a slight, unwanted deformation of the faceplate in this border region. The part shown in Olsen does not prevent the faceplate from arching upwards or downwards due to

external mechanical pressure in the border region. This is different, given the stabilization element according to the invention. Since here the stabilization element respectively encloses the opposite border regions, a force transfer from one side to the other (and therewith overall a stabilization in the border region)

5 can ensue.


For these reasons, the Applicant asserts that the amended claim language clearly distinguishes over the prior art, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection from the present application.

### CONCLUSION

10 Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the amendments, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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